

Phase III Activities Completion Plan FAQ's

Q: What is the GC-IMT Phase III Activities Completion Plan?

The Phase III Activities Completion Plan was collaboratively written by the U.S. Coast Guard, Gulf States, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Interior and BP - collectively known as the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team. BP will continue removal activities as prescribed in the Shoreline Clean-up Completion Plan and will remain operational across the Gulf Coast under the guidance of the Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator.

The GC-IMT Phase III Response Activities Completion Plan serves to support the objectives of the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team as Phase III activities are completed and the GCIMT Unified Command functions are discontinued. The plan outlines the activities required before the FOSC may determine the removal efforts to be complete under 40 C.F.R. 300.320(b) for Deepwater Horizon MC252 Emergency Oil Spill Response. The FOSC, in consultation with the State On-Scene Coordinators, Federal Trustees and BP, will execute remaining Phase III activities and processes in accordance with the Shoreline Clean-Up Completion Plan.

Q: Does this mean the response will end?

Not until all the oil is cleaned up in accordance with the SCCP. The GC-IMT is working to facilitate movement towards Gulf Coast Restoration while, at the same time, making sure the remainder of the identified areas are cleaned. The GC-IMT will continue to operate in a Unified Command structure to complete shoreline clean up as prescribed in the SCCP and will remain operational on the Gulf Coast under the guidance of the FOSC.

Q: Will the Coast Guard still oversee the response?

FOSC responsibilities will continue to be administered by Capt. Duke Walker on the Eighth Coast Guard District staff and the Coast Guard will retain the necessary personnel in the field to complete shoreline clean up as prescribed in the SCCP.

Q: Who will be responsible for cleaning up new oil in affected areas?

If oil is observed in the environment, the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802) should be notified. The Coast Guard runs the NRC, and as with any report of oil, the Coast Guard will investigate the reports, determine the Responsible Party if possible, and hold them accountable for the cleanup. If oil appears in areas that have already been deemed as clean, the Coast Guard will respond according to established policy and procedures and allocate time, resources and personnel to investigate the cause and mitigate the potential for environmental impact. If oil is found to be MC 252 in any area that has been previously declared as clean, BP will be required to clean it up.

Q: When will Natural Resource Damage Assessments projects start?

NRDA projects can begin once segments of shoreline meet clean-up criteria and are removed from areas designated as Response areas. The SCCP also includes an exception process to remove a shoreline from the Response prior to its meeting clean-up criteria so a NRDA project can begin. This is important because there are several projects that have been identified and funded and are critical to recovery of the system. NRDA projects and status can be found on the

NRDA website: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov>. Several restoration projects have been identified, and can be found on the NRDA website: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov>.

Q: How many people and how much equipment will be left to clean up shorelines?

BP will continue activities as prescribed in the SCCP and will remain operational on the Gulf Coast under the guidance of the Coast Guard FOSC. The number of people and equipment will likely vary given the work and time of year.

Q: Does this mean that BP is no longer accountable for cleanup?

No. The Deepwater Horizon cleanup will continue until all of the shoreline impacted by the spill has been cleaned as prescribed in the SCCP. In the case of a pollution incident, the Coast Guard will continue to follow established protocol, including sampling, fingerprinting, and other investigative means, to identify the source and name the Responsible Party. If oil is found to be MC252 oil, then BP will be held accountable for the cleanup.

Q: How does the Coast Guard identify the Responsible Party?

The Coast Guard works to identify a Responsible Party through the use of sampling, fingerprinting and other investigative means. If a Responsible Party cannot be identified, the Coast Guard can contract with an Oil Spill Response Organizations for the cleanup.

Q: What is the best information source for the Response?

The best and most updated source of information concerning the response is the www.restorethegulf.gov website. It gives updates on the response, press releases and is a useful source for factual information.